

HAND-BOOK

OF THE

Brussels Street Baptist Church,

BRUSSELS ST.,

ST. JOHN, N. B.

ORGANIZED IN 1850.

SAINT JOHN, N. B. :

PRINTED AT "THE GAZETTE" JOB OFFICE.

1895.

BRASS 8 1/2

10 1/2

10 1/2

10 1/2

HAND-BOOK

OF THE

Brussels Street Baptist Church,

BRUSSELS ST.,

ST. JOHN, N. B.

ORGANIZED IN 1850.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.:

PRINTED AT "THE GAZETTE" JOB OFFICE,

1895.

CA
286M
.OL 8a2bh

LIST OF OFFICERS.

PASTOR :

Rev. G. M. W. Carey, D. D.

DEACONS :

William Allwood, James S. May, Jonathan Titus,
E. W. Elliott, N. B. Cottle, G. H. Burnett.
Ira B. Kierstead.

CLERK :

H. S. Cosman.

TREASURER :

E. M. Sipprell.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL :

Ira B. Kierstead.

PRESIDENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION :

F. A. Dykeman.

A

286M

.OL Sa24 bh

HISTORY.

The Brussels Street Baptist Church was organized March 29th, 1850. Rev. Samuel Robinson was chosen as Pastor, and remained such till his lamented death, September 16th, 1866. He was a man of warm, Christian spirit, a wise leader, abundant in good works, and the church grew greatly under his ministry. Rev. Dr. Bill supplied the pulpit for over a year, when in February, 1868, Rev. Timothy Harley became Pastor, and remained till February, 1872. In July, 1872, Rev. W. P. Everett, A. M., was called, and remained till August, 1876. The pulpit was then supplied by different brethren till September, 1877, when Rev. A. J. Wilcox became Pastor, and closed his pastorate in July, 1880. In August, 1880, Rev. J. E. Hopper, D. D., accepted the charge of the church, remaining till March, 1887, when on account of shattered health he was compelled to seek a more genial climate. In September, 1887, Rev. G. H. Mellick accepted the pastorate and remained till August, 1889, then resigned to take a course of study, and Rev. W. J. Stewart was called, beginning his ministry, September, 1889,

(3)

97740

serving the church till March, 1893, when he resigned to visit the Western States. August, 1893, Rev. G. M. W. Carey, D. D., of Ottawa, was invited to the pastorate, and at this date, July, 1895, is the esteemed pastor.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer: to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

EPITOME OF ARTICLES OF FAITH

1.—We believe in one God, revealed to us in the Bible, His inspired word, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who has a purpose of grace for man.

2.—We believe that man was created holy, fell by disobedience, and that the taint of sin is transmitted through the race, so that all are under its penalty, and if saved must be born again.

3.—We believe that salvation full and free has been provided through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for every sinner who, moved by the Holy Ghost, repents of sin and believes the gospel, and that the work begun by the Spirit will be carried on in a gracious growth till heaven is gained.

4.—We believe in the resurrection of the body, a judgment day, and Heaven and Hell as the lasting abode of the righteous and the wicked.

5.—We believe a church is a company of believers in Christ, baptized upon a profession of faith, and united together in covenant relations, with officers as specified in the New Testament, viz.: Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons; that each church is alone amenable to Christ; that baptism is immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, both ordinances being in the custody of the church and to be observed in the order given till Christ shall come the second time to receive His people up into glory.

CONSTITUTION.

SECTION I.

FORM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Article 1.—The corporate name shall be the Brussels Street Baptist Church, St. John. There shall be a Pastor and seven or more Deacons, all of whom shall be elected by ballot, to serve during the pleasure of the church; also a Clerk and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by ballot at the first business meeting in January. Two-thirds of the votes cast by the members present shall be necessary for the election of a Pastor. In the election of Deacons, Clerk and Treasurer a majority vote shall be necessary.

Article 2.—The Pastor shall be Moderator of all meetings when present, unless the church shall otherwise direct. In his absence a Moderator shall be chosen by the church. The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the church, pay all bills which are authorized by the church or the Finance Committee, and make a report of the state of the treasury at the regular quarterly business meetings of the church. The Clerk shall keep an exact record

of all business meetings, also a list of church members, and shall conduct the correspondence of the church.

Article 3.—In the election of Pastor and other officers and Trustees of the church, it shall be the duty of the Deacons to cause public notice of the time, place and purpose thereof, to be given from the pulpit on the Sabbath before the election.

Article 4.—Every member of the church, both male and female, who regularly communes with the church and contributes regularly to the church support, shall have the right to vote on all matters, and where unanimity cannot be obtained, a majority of those present shall determine all questions, save in cases otherwise specially provided for.

Article 5.—The church shall meet for the transaction of business on the Thursday evening after the first Sunday in January, April, July and October of each year.

Article 6.—The Pastor and officers shall take into consideration the general welfare of the church, act in her behalf during the interval between the business meetings of the church, and shall call special church meetings when necessary.

Article 7.—Seven members of the church and congregation shall be elected at the regular annual church meeting in January in each year, who shall be a body corporate, called "The Trustees of the Brussels Street Baptist Church, of St. John," and

who shall hold in trust all property, &c., for the benefit of the church. The acts of the Trustees to be valid only when ratified by a vote of two-thirds of the members and pew-holders present at a regularly convened meeting of the church.

SECTION II.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Article 1.—Persons desiring to become members shall apply to the Pastor, who, with one or more of the officers, shall make the necessary investigation, when, upon their recommendation, the candidate shall appear before the church and make request for admission.

Article 2.—In the admission of members the vote shall be unanimous. Should any objection be made, the case shall be postponed and the objection inquired into. If the church on inquiry shall regard the objection as unscriptural, it may be overruled.

SECTION III.

DISMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Article 1.—Members when about to remove from us, are expected and desired to take letters of commendation or dismission, as the case may require.

Article 2.—A letter of dismission is only granted to members in full fellowship on making personal application, where practicable, and to a regular Baptist church, specified by name. When notified of the member's reception in said church, the name will be dropped from our roll. A letter is good only for six months.

SECTION IV.

DISCIPLINE.

Article 1.—In case of disagreement between members it shall be the duty of the offended party first to tell the offending brother or sister his or her fault, and endeavor by mild and gentle means to effect a reconciliation; should this course fail, then to go in company with one or two more brethren, or sisters, who shall by kind persuasion seek to reconcile the disagreeing; and if these efforts fail, the case shall be brought before the officers of the church, to be by them submitted to the church if not settled.

Article 2.—In case of continued delinquency, irregular walk or unbecoming deportment, coming to the knowledge of any member, it shall be the duty of such member, in the exercise of all proper measures, to endeavor to reclaim the offender and preserve the purity of the church, or failing in this

to report the same to the officers of the church, whose duty it shall be, in case they cannot reclaim the offender, to cite him to appear before the church to answer the charges.

Article 3.—In case of gross and flagrant violation of Christian conduct and character, such as the Scriptures forbid us to sanction by any act of clemency, the offender shall be immediately excluded from the fellowship of the church.

Article 4.—In case of the continued absence of members, and in such other cases as may be deemed proper, the church at any regular, special, or adjourned meeting, may, by a two-thirds vote, withdraw the hand of church fellowship from such members, without citing them to appear before the church.

SECTION V.

AMENDMENTS.

Article 1.—This form of church government may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular business meeting, provided that notice of such alteration or amendment shall have been given at a previous meeting.

SECTION VI.

Article 1.—The business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary usage, so called.

ORGANIZATION.

DEACONS.

The Deacons are the Pastor's special helpers and counsellors in the watchcare of the church. They shall endeavor to keep informed as to the spiritual welfare of the members and do all that may be practicable to stimulate them to love and good works. They shall have the special care of the poor, and shall disburse the poor fund.

COMMITTEES.

At the regular business meeting of the church in January the following committees shall be elected, all save the Sunday School, otherwise provided for:

Committee on	Finance,
"	" Pews,
"	" Ushers,
"	" Sick,
"	" Music,
"	" Sunday Schools,
"	" Membership and Strangers.

These committees shall report their work, in writing, at each quarterly business meeting of the church, and for greater efficiency it is desirable that a meeting of these committees be held once a month for verbal reports, social and religious conversation

and prayer, under the direction of the Pastor or an elected chairman. The chairman of each committee shall call a meeting of the committee, immediately after appointment, for organization and work.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

1.—To carry out the plans adopted by the church for raising the regular expenses thereof, and to suggest such measures as they deem advisable for securing a sufficient income for the church to meet its obligations.

2.—To attend to the collection of any debts to the church which the Treasurer, or any one authorized, may turn over to them.

3.—It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to keep an accurate record of the names of contributors, and of the sums thus paid.

4.—The Treasurer of the Finance Committee shall take charge of all the church collections, and make proper entries of such, and turn the money so collected over to the Treasurer of the church as promptly as possible.

COMMITTEE ON PEWS.

1.—To attend to the renting of the pews according to the terms and conditions provided, and keep a correct list of all who rent pews or seats.

- 2.—To see each new member of the church at the earliest suitable opportunity, and invite such member to select a seat in the church.

COMMITTEE OF USHERS.

- 1.—To meet, welcome and conduct to seats all persons who may need this attention on their part, and to do what may be in their power to make strangers and members feel at home in the church.
- 2.—To aid as far as they can the Committees on Pews, and on Membership and Strangers.

COMMITTEE ON MUSIC.

- 1.—To provide an organist and leader of the singing with such assistants as they may need for the Sabbath and week day services of the church, submitting their selection for the approval of the church.
- 2.—To endeavor to introduce as fully as possible the Hymn and Tune Books adopted by the church, and from time to time make such suggestions as will in their judgment be conducive to improvement in the service of song.

COMMITTEE ON SICK.

- 1.—To see as far as possible that none of the members of the church, when sick, shall lack for

attention, and to discover as far as can be done, who are sick in the congregation.

2.—To try to determine just what attention such persons need, and to secure others, if need be, to aid them in rendering this attention.

3.—To report, when they deem proper, any special cases of sickness to the Pastor or Deacons.

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP AND STRANGERS.

1.—To make the acquaintance of the members of the church and congregation ; to assist in cultivating a friendly feeling among them and when possible to aid in increasing the membership and income of the church.

2.—To find out as far as possible all persons coming to the city who have no church connection here, and endeavor to persuade them to attend our church regularly.

3.—To urge persons who may worship with us, and who are members of churches elsewhere, to unite with the church.

4.—To keep in correspondence with all the members of the church who live at too great a distance from us to attend services. To urge them to take letters of dismissal and unite with sister churches in their neighborhood, if any, and otherwise to urge them to send reports of their Christian progress, and donations for the support of the church and its benevolent work.

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

1.—The Sunday School shall have the right to elect, subject to the approval of the church, the members of this committee, who shall all be active workers in the school, and shall associate with themselves any whom they may require as teachers and officers. This committee, thus enlarged, shall conduct the school so as to secure, in their judgment, its highest efficiency. The Superintendent of the Church Sunday School shall be the chairman of this committee.

THE LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

The Ladies' Association is composed of the female members of the church and congregation. Its duty is to oversee all work coming specially within woman's sphere, such as women's and girls' prayer meetings, Foreign Mission Circle, and Foreign Mission Band, and Dorcas Society, &c. This association also has in charge the raising of funds for church improvement, and adopts its own plans to secure them. Its officers are a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, who, with three others, form an executive committee, and are elected semi-annually.

CHURCH FINANCES.

1.—It is expected that every member of this church, who is not debarred by absolute poverty, will consider it a privilege and a duty to contribute to its maintenance.

2.—The weekly offering, having the sanction of apostolic injunction with the renting of pews or seats, is the method adopted by this church to secure funds to carry on its work.

3.—Each contributor is requested to seal up in an envelope his or her contribution and write the name upon it, and drop it in the collection plate.

4.—If Providence shall at any time prevent the attendance of any member, such member is expected to send the contribution for that day, or bring it when next attending.

5.—Any member of the church in the city neglecting to contribute, or refusing to do so, for a longer period than six months on any other ground than that of inability, shall be reported to the officers of the church for investigation of the case.

6.—A subscription card shall be given every member of the church and congregation, on which they are urged to state the amount they propose to give,

RENTAL OF PEWS.

Each member not owning a pew is requested to secure a permanent seat, and when unable to pay for it the Committee on Pews will make the necessary provision.

Pew rents are due and payable quarterly to the Treasurer of the Finance Committee.

Every pew holder and occupant of sitting, three months in arrears, shall have a notice from the Finance Committee; and any one who shall be at any time six months in arrears, and shall fail to pay, shall forfeit his or her pew or seat, immediately after notification — mitigating circumstances of course being taken into account.

CHURCH MEETINGS.

Public worship is held every Lord's day morning at 11 o'clock, and evening at 7 o'clock,

The Lord's Supper is observed the first Sunday evening in each month.

Regular Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening.

Young People's Meeting every Friday evening.

Covenant Meeting Friday evening before the first Sunday in the month.

Regular Business Meeting on the Thursday evening after the first Sunday in the months of January, April, July and October.

The Pastor may, on the advice of the officers of the church, or on the request of ten members, in writing, convene a special meeting of the church.

MEETINGS OF OFFICERS

The Pastor, Deacons, Finance Committee, Clerk, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, President of the Young People's Union, and the Superintendent of the Sunday School shall constitute the Board of Management, and shall meet once a month to consider any matters pertaining to the interests of the church, and to them must be submitted all other than ordinary collections and expenditure.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES OR COMMITTEES.

The various societies or committees engaged in the work of the church will meet at times and places to suit the convenience of members, so arranging all appointments as not to conflict with the regular services of the church.

Constitution of the Young People's Union.

1.—The name of this organization shall be the Baptist Young People's Union of Christian Endeavor of the Brussels Street Baptist Church.

2.—The object of this Union shall be to secure the increased spirituality of our Baptist young people; their stimulation in Christian service, their edification in Scripture knowledge, their instruction in Baptist doctrine and history and their enlistment in missionary activity.

3.—The membership may consist of three classes: Active, Associate and Honorary.

4.—The active membership shall consist of persons who are members of a Baptist church, elected upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and who have signed the constitution.

5.—The associate membership shall consist of persons, who, though not members of a Baptist church, are of good moral character; elected upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Such associate members shall be welcome to all the privileges of the society, except voting and holding office.

6.—Honorary members may be elected at the pleasure of the society.

OFFICERS.

The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be chosen annually or semi-annually, and shall perform the duties usually appertaining to such offices.

COMMITTEES.

The Pastor and President are *ex-officio* members of all Committees, and their approval should accompany the plans and recommendations made by the Committees. The Committees and their duties shall be as follows :

Membership.—To have charge of the distribution of invitation cards ; to bring in new members ; to introduce them ; to encourage attendance upon all meetings ; and to interest all young people of the church and congregation in the work of the Union.

Devotional.—To arrange, in connection with the Pastor and President, for all prayer meetings ; provide topics, and seek in every way to promote the interest of the meetings.

Instruction.—To arrange for Bible study, lectures on religious topics, courses of general, denominational and missionary reading and instruction ; to develop and promote all that belongs to this feature of the work, and have charge of the library.

Social.—To call upon and welcome strangers ; to provide for sociables ; to extend acquaintance among the members, and to increase the interest of all meetings of the Union.

Calling.—It shall be the duty of this committee to have a special care for those among the young people who do not feel at home in the church, to call on them, and to remind others where calls should be made.

Music.—It shall be the duty of this committee to provide for the singing at the young people's meeting, and also to turn the musical ability of the society into account, when necessary, at public religious meetings.

Flower.—It shall be the duty of this committee to provide flowers for the pulpit and to distribute them to the sick at the close of the Sabbath services.

Executive.—To consist of the Pastor and officers, to meet once a month, also at the call of the Pastor or President ; to consider all matters of business and make recommendations to the Union, and to report to the church annually the progress of the work of the young people. The Executive Committee may make recommendations at any regular meeting, and all other committees shall report their work to the society at least every two months, at a regular weekly meeting to be designated by the Executive Committee.

ELECTIONS.

The President shall be elected by the Union, subject to the approval of the church. All other officers and committees shall be nominated by a committee of five, and be elected by the society.

MEETINGS.

Devotional meetings shall be held weekly. Meetings for Bible study shall be held at such times as may be determined by the Union. The annual meeting shall occur at least one week before the annual meeting of the church. Business meetings shall be held at the call of the Executive Committee.

AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided notice of the amendment shall have been given at a previous regular meeting.